

**Hilliard, Tim**

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**From:** Hilliard, Tim**Sent:** Friday, February 25, 2005 7:53 AM**To:** Hilliard, Tim**Subject:** Progress Report #5: SR-167 Duwamish-Green / Puyallup Watershed Characterization

Greetings - The Washington State Department of Transportation's Watershed Program is pursuing our fourth full-scale watershed characterization project. As in the past, our ultimate product will be prioritized lists of sites having potential to mitigate for the environmental impacts of transportation improvement projects while maximizing environmental benefits, as well as detailed supporting documentation of the process and findings behind the lists. To be put in touch with any of the members of the technical team for this project, contact Tim Hilliard at 360.705.7488 or by e-mail at [hilliat@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:hilliat@wsdot.wa.gov). The updated methodology we use, as well as the reports of our first three characterization projects, and archives of these messages are available at the following web site: [http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/watershed/technical\\_report.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/watershed/technical_report.htm). **We are recapping our progress every week or two in a message like this. Please tell us if you want your name removed from our contact list or if there are other names you would like added. Also, please feel free to forward these messages.** Thanks for your interest!

**Progress Report****Watershed Characterization and "Themes for Recovery"**

- We are beginning to map ecological process condition results for movement (delivery and routing) of water, sediments, and wood, and overall condition for aquatic integrity.
- We will be developing a set of **"themes for recovery"** for each of the 18 subbasins we are using in our study.
- The themes are used during our site prioritization phase.
- These will be synthesized from any local plans we have, and EDT results where available.
- We will also give you a chance to review the draft themes and have input.
- **We'll use this forum to ask for review when draft themes are developed - probably next week.**

**Wetlands**

- Photo interpretation to develop a database of potential wetland restoration sites continues - about 80% done. The main wetland scientist is clearing his calendar of all other obligations to spend the entire week next week attempting to finish the job!
- Integration of the Mill Creek SAMP plan into our work is complete.
- Photo interpretation of additional wetlands adjacent to the SAMP plan is complete.
- Within the estimated highway project area boundary, all field-verified wetlands have been entered into the GIS system.

**Upland Habitat Connectivity**

- New methods are being created to characterize the condition of habitat connectivity at a landscape scale by assessing forest density areas.
- Using a proximity rating through FRAGSTATS we are working on identifying existing forested patches that contribute to habitat connectivity.

- Restoration sites that would add to these patches could enhance connectivity.
- See <http://www.umass.edu/landeco/research/fragstats/fragstats.html> for more on FRAGSTATS.

### **Local Issues**

- As noted above, we'll be asking for local input on the themes for recovery.
- We are always happy to discuss our project with you at any time by e-mail, phone, or in person.